



H.Res. 740 – Condemning in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 740 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on October 15, 2007. The Committee on Foreign Affairs agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules on October 23, 2007.

H.Res. 740 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on October 29, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 740:

- Condemns in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007;
- Expresses the House of Representatives' condolences to the people and Governments of Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, and Botswana, the families and friends of those individuals who were killed or missing in the attacks, and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured;
- Expresses the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the African Union and the African Union peacekeepers as they recover from these cowardly and inhuman attacks;
- Expresses House of Representatives' readiness to support efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the attacks and efforts to detect, pursue, disrupt, and dismantle the networks that plan and carry out such attacks;
- Expresses House of Representatives' support for the people of Darfur, Sudan, in their continued struggle against extremism and violence and support for their efforts to secure a permanent peace, justice, and return to their restored villages and homes; and,
- Encourages all parties involved in the conflict to commit to negotiate a final and binding peace agreement at the peace talks scheduled for October 27, 2007, in Tripoli, Libya.

BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2007, an estimated 1,000 members of a heavily-armed Darfur rebel group overran a small base in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, occupied by the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), brutally killing 10 peacekeepers - seven Nigerian peacekeepers and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and - Botswana and wounding seven peacekeepers, with 50 soldiers missing.

In an assault described by the African Union commander as 'deliberate and sustained', the rebel group broke into the AMIS base in 30 vehicles with heavy artillery and mortars and battled for hours until AMIS forces ran out of ammunition. The attacks were the worst attacks on AMIS peacekeepers since the deployment of the peacekeepers to Sudan in July 2004.

The United Nations Security Council condemned the 'murderous attack' on AMIS peacekeepers and demanded that 'no effort be spared' to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of the attacks. In the aftermath of the attacks, Haskanita has been burned to the ground, driving more than 15,000 civilians into the bush or neighboring towns.

The attacks have been openly condemned by the United States Government, the African Union, and the international community, but the Government of Sudan has not publicly spoken out against or condemned the attacks. The attacks occurred amid international peace efforts to deploy a hybrid African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force to Darfur, Sudan, and convene peace talks scheduled for October 27, 2007, in Tripoli, Libya.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did not have a cost estimate available at the time of publication.

STAFF CONTACT

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